2006 ELECTION

OHA TRUSTEE NO ISLAND RESIDENCY REQ (3)



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Mahalo nui loa for giving me the opportunity to serve as Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee for these past six years.

Four years ago OHA was at a crossroads: the Supreme Court had repealed Act 304 and the State was dispensing no money to OHA, OHA's Ability to disburse grants had been completely suspended, and two cases seeking to prevent OHA from serving the Hawaiian people were pending in the courts.

Today OHA receives about six million more in annual revenue than it did just prior to the repeal of Act 304, OHA dispenses more than triple the amount of grant money it ever did prior, and both aforementioned court cases as well as a subsequent third have been dismissed.

Now, however, is not the time to become complacent. Although we've made some important strides, we continue to face challenges new and old. In light of the unsuccessful effort to bring the Akaka Bill to the U.S. Senate floor, OHA must remain committed to providing a process for Hawaiians to come together and establish a Native Hawaiian political body which represents our collective interests.

The socio-economical needs of Hawaiians must also continue to be a priority. OHA needs to increase previous efforts, particularly in the areas of: health, education, housing, and economic development. It is also important that we effectively inform our people of current existing programs and services.

To commit to any less would diminish our bonds as an `ohana and strength as a people. Let us advance together.